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217-015
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ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

FROM

Director, Foreign Broadcast
Information Service

EXTENSION

NO.

FBIS-0016/86

DATE

16 January 1986

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and
building)

DATE

OFFICER'S
INITIALSCOMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom
to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

RECEIVED

FORWARDED

1. Director, Management and
Planning, DS&T
Room 6E45, Headquarters

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15.

*This was well
received and
we got every
encouragement
to push on.
Next step is a
message to*

25X1

25X1

25X1

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FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

P. O. Box 2604

Washington, D. C. 20013

15 January 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. William M. Woessner
Principal Deputy Assistant for European and
Canadian Affairs
Department of State

SUBJECT: Establishment of FBIS Bureau in West Europe

1. This memorandum provides information on the steps FBIS is undertaking to establish a new bureau in West Europe and provides the rationale for such an establishment. A formal memorandum soliciting your concurrence in this action and assistance in obtaining the host government's approval will be forwarded when our plans have taken definite shape.

2. As you may be aware, FBIS has embarked on a large-scale modernization effort extending over the next 5-8 years that will improve not only its capacity to deliver its product to its customers in speedier and more effective fashion but also its ability to collect relevant intelligence information from modern news systems that are changing steadily as technology advances.

3. An important element of this program is acquiring an ability to monitor communications satellites for news of importance to the U.S. Government. A technical study we carried out in 1982 concluded that effective monitoring in the European area could be accomplished from our existing bureaus in London and Cyprus, but only of the then-typical "C-band" satellites. Meanwhile a trend toward the use of "K-band" satellites has become apparent among European countries with a shift away from the C-band. The K-band satellites with spot beam communications can be monitored more effectively from a site on the European continent, one of the several factors that leads to our initiative.

[REDACTED] 25X1
[REDACTED] 25X1
while the cooperative arrangement with the BBC Monitoring Service will continue to be the highly profitable one it has always been for coverage of the Soviet Union and East Europe, the same cannot be said for West Europe, which is given comparatively low attention by the BBC for a variety of reasons. An FBIS bureau in Europe will overcome this deficiency and ensure expanded press, radio, and television coverage from West European sources, including access to databases and increasingly important cable communications systems.

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CONFIDENTIAL**SUBJECT: Establishment of FBIS Bureau in West Europe**

5. We are now engaged in preliminary coordination in Washington toward formulating a concrete plan for your consideration and approval. Our initial concept, which can be modified or changed completely as circumstances dictate, calls for establishment of an FBIS monitoring site in West Germany comprising approximately [] acres (primarily for the necessary antennas), and a staff of about [] U.S. nationals and [] foreign nationals (linguists, technicians, and clerical personnel). This makes attractive the notion of a bureau on an existing U.S. military base in Germany but by no means excludes an affiliation with U.S. Embassy [] or other arrangements.

6. It is our plan to send a survey team [] in the near future to discuss possible sites and operational configurations. Assuming your concurrence we will prepare an outline of our requirements which will be sent []

[]
Director

DDS&T/FBIS [] (15Jan86)

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